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COCOM DOCUMENT NO. 3416.61/2

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CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEEREDEFINITION PROPOSAL FOR ITEM 1661(b)NICKEL ALLOYSMemorandum by the United Kingdom Delegation

1.(i) The present embargo sub-item is :-

"(b) nickel base alloys containing 32% or more nickel in any form."

(ii) The United Kingdom proposed wording as at present tabled in COCOM is:-

"(b) nickel based alloys containing 32% or more nickel and either 3% or more of molybdenum or 1% or more of titanium.

(iii) By way of compromise, the United States have proposed, as an addition to the present wording:-

"except resistance wires".

(iv) It has been agreed (Appendix to COCOM Doc. No. 3016.00/4, page 8) to add after sub-item 1661(b) the following:-

"(NOTE: It is not the intention to cover those magnetic materials not covered by Item 1631)".

2. It will be recalled that the United Kingdom's current proposals were designed to meet objections by the United States to an earlier formula which would have served to embargo only the highest nimonics which, in the United Kingdom's view, alone among nickel alloys, require to be embargoed because their very high heat-resisting properties make them particularly useful for rocketry and jet engines.

3. The Annex to COCOM Doc. No. 3416.61/1 states the United States objections to the United Kingdom's current proposals. The United Kingdom's comments on the United States objections are as follows:-

(i) The Annex says that Incoloy is a "base for many high temperature alloys". But United Kingdom experts consider that it is only such a "base" in the sense that nickel metal (now embargo free) is also a "base" for strategic alloys.

(ii) There is no dissent from the statement that the addition of 1% titanium to Incoloy "results in a modest increase in rupture and creep strength". But the relevance of this, in the present context, is not understood.

(iii) The important and up-to-date alloys used for stator blades, etc., would be embargoed under the existing United Kingdom proposals.

(iv) It is recognised that Nimonic 75 would be free under the United Kingdom's proposals. But Nimonic 75 is a less satisfactory alloy for these purposes than the higher Nimonics; and certain alloys of very closely similar composition are widely used for civilian purposes.

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- (v) Nimonic D5 and NA-22H are not - as the Annex points out - currently used in jet applications. The reason is quite simply that they are not as satisfactory for such purposes as the alloys which the United Kingdom's proposals were designed to catch.

4. Nevertheless; the United Kingdom authorities welcome the spirit in which the United States have propounded their compromise proposal (to retain the present wording of 1661(b) but add the words "except resistance wires"), which has been studied from two aspects. The first aspect is whether the redefinition does not still retain under embargo material of civilian application. Much as the proposal to free resistance wires having 32% or more of nickel is welcome, there are, apart from resistance wires, several civil industry alloys and semi-manufactures of high nickel content which should be free.

5. The second aspect from which the United States proposal has been studied is to see whether a formula can be found for making the right exceptions from a general 32% nickel cut-off rule. If the proposals the United Kingdom have already tabled are not acceptable, the United Kingdom authorities believe that the following definition will provide a compromise acceptable to the Committee.

"(b) Nickel base alloys (other than alloys covered by Items 1631 or 1635) containing 32% or more nickel, except:

- (i) resistance wire, rod, tape and strip;
- (ii) nickel-copper alloys containing not more than 6% of other alloying elements.

(NOTE: It is not the intention to cover those magnetic materials not covered by Item 1631.)"

6. The exceptions provided for in the above compromise formula can be explained as follows:-

- (i) The first part of the proposed definition for exceptions from embargo covers all finished forms of nickel alloy electrical resistance materials. (This means, for example, that the reference to "rod" covers resistance rods but not material from which wire is drawn.) This is no more than a logical spelling out of the exception the United States have themselves proposed for resistance wires.
- (ii) The second part of the proposed exceptions definition covers the main "Monel" metals which are of wide application for civilian purposes on account of their corrosion-resistant qualities. It does not cover any high-temperature alloys. There is no indication that any member country regards the "Monel"-type alloys as properly subject to the embargo by reference to the strategic criteria.

7. The United Kingdom Delegation are now putting forward the above proposals for the redefinition of Item 1661(h) in an effort to reach a quick and reasonably balanced compromise solution on this sub-item. In doing so, the United Kingdom wish to emphasise the following two points:-

- (i) These proposals would still leave under embargo a range of alloys widely employed in civil industry which ought not to be covered. The exclusion of all high temperature alloys from the permitted exceptions is made in deference to the objections of the United States, since the United Kingdom Delegation recognise that the present time would not be opportune to press for the release of ^{these}

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these alloys from embargo if to do so would unreasonably defer agreement on generally improved, more consistent and more easily defensible definitions for the whole range of items in the metals group.

- (ii) If however these proposals (which represent very substantial concessions by the United Kingdom authorities) prove unacceptable, the United Kingdom authorities would have to consider reverting to their earlier proposals on all metal items now under discussion when the subject is next reopened.

United Kingdom Delegation

Paris

March 6, 1959.